UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Commercial Fisheries
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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For Release JUNE 10, 1965

NEWS NOTES FROM THE FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

This Eagle Swims

Tulelake, Calif.: An employee of the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife reports seeing a bald eagle swimming at Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge in northern California. Apparently the eagle crashed into the water while trying to catch a meal and was unable to become airborne again. The big bird approached the shore by using his wings as paddles, dipping them in and out of the water in a circular motion.

New Method Developed for Identifying Species of Processed Fish

Gloucester, Mass.: A new and precise method of identifying species of processed fish has been developed by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries.

Simply stated, the process involves taking the equivalent of "fingerprints" of the protein structure of fish. The new system is considered a major improvement over other methods of species identification which require more time and highly trained personnel.

Refuge Goose Production Increases

Minneapolis, Minn.: Canada goose production on 14 midwestern National Wildlife Refuges has gained 37 percent in two years. This great increase is attributed to newly erected nest structures on the refuges. The nesting platforms appear to be better adapted for the birds and are much cheaper to build than nesting "islands."

Fish Meal Prices Remain High

Washington, D. C.: The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries says the United States market for imported fish meal continues bullish as demand for the poultry and livestock feed additive remains steady. Domestic fish meal supplies continue scarce, and spot and future price quotations of Peruvian meal continue to run \$25-\$28 above a year ago. A recent spot price quoted in New York for Peruvian meal was \$154-\$156 per ton.

California Condor Study Underway

Ventura, Calif.: Biologists of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife are studying the California condor, North America's largest soaring bird, which is threatened with extinction. The study is expected to develop a management plan for the birds as well as to determine future research needs. Possible effects of a proposed water-development project and access road near the primary condor nesting area also will be studied.

Hake Plentiful Off Pacific Coast

La Jolla, Calif.: The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries says studies indicate the Pacific hake is one of the two most abundant fish in the temperate eastern Pacific, ranking second to the northern anchovy. Hake spawning, mostly in the winter months, is widespread off California and Baja California, extending offshore for several hundred miles.

Hake has also been found in abundance along the outer part of the Continental Shelf and over the continental slope off Washington, Oregon, and California. A domestic commercial fishery for Pacific hake is expected to begin this year.

Hybrid Trout Experiment Underway

Estacada, Ore.: Steelhead trout eggs at the Eagle Creek National Fish Hatchery have been fertilized by male rainbow trout broodstock from the School of Fisheries, University of Washington, in an attempt to produce faster growing steelhead. The hybrid fish developed from this cross will be reared separately and marked before release. Hybrid vigor is expected to produce steelhead of migratory size in one year, instead of the usual two years. Steelhead are rainbow trout that have become anadromous, living in the ocean and returning to fresh-water streams to spawn.

Oyster Museum Planned

Chincoteague, Va.: The United States oyster industry and citizens of Chincoteague, Va., a village long famous for its oysters, are planning an Oyster Museum which will feature the biology, culture, and development of the local industry. Eventually the museum plans exhibits of oysters and their culture in various parts of the world. James B. Engle, Chief of the Shellfish Advisory Service of the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, will be consultant to the Museum Committee.

Publication on Endangered Wildlife Available

Washington, D. C.: "Survival or Surrender for Endangered Wildlife," a new publication on the plight of many of America's rare and endangered species,

has been produced by the Interior Department's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. The illustrated leaflet discusses the careless attitude that has cost America many kinds of fish, birds, and mammals, lists most of the species now extinct, and briefly discusses 15 selected species that now are threatened with extinction.

The publication is available only from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402, at 15 cents a copy.

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